



African Studies Centre Leiden

African Postal Heritage

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Ton Dietz

Zanzibar part 1: British-Indian, German, and French Post Offices before 1895

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Introduction

Postage stamps and related objects are miniature communication tools, and they tell a story about cultural and political identities and about artistic forms of identity expressions. They are part of the world's material heritage, and part of history. Ever more of this postal heritage becomes available online, published by stamp collectors' organizations, auction houses, commercial stamp shops, online catalogues, and individual collectors. Virtually collecting postage stamps and postal history has recently become a possibility. These working papers about Africa are examples of what can be done. But they are work-in-progress! Everyone who would like to contribute, by sending corrections, additions, and new area studies can do so by sending an email message to the APH editor: Ton Dietz (dietzaj@asc.leidenuniv.nl). You are welcome!

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Illustrations cover page:

ASC Leiden postage stamp Nederland (2011): ©African Studies Centre Leiden

Cape of Good Hope postage stamp 1853:

http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/7/7c/Cape_Triangular_Postage_Stamp.jpg/400px-Cape_Triangular_Postage_Stamp.jpg

Egypt postage stamp 1914:

https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/4/4b/Post_Stamp_Egypt.jpg

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ZANZIBAR POSTAL HERITAGE

Introduction



http://www.die-briefmarke.com/fileadmin/user_upload_briefmarke/Online_Katalog/Zanzibar/Flag_of_Zanzibar.png

Postal History of Zanzibar, according to: <http://www.die-briefmarke.com/index.php?id=1275>.

“The Protectorate comprises the islands of Zanzibar and Pemba and the islands within their territorial waters and to the south, the small, uninhabited Latham Island. Zanzibar is the largest coralline island off the East African coast.

In the first decade of the sixteenth century the Portuguese became dominant on the East African coast. Zanzibar and Pemba were made tributaries in 1503 but the relationship was soon altered to allies, rather than subjects. The first recorded visit by an English ship, the *Edward Bonaventure* was in 1591.

In 1698 the Arabs of Muscat and Oman, assisted by English ships, captured the Portuguese fort at Mombasa. Gaining control of the whole area, Zanzibar and Pemba fell into their hands. In 1747 Ahmed bin Said el-Busaidi, founder of the Busaidi dynasty, still reigning in Zanzibar, became ruler of Muscat and Oman.

Zanzibar separated politically from Muscat and Oman in 1861. In 1873 the Sultan agreed, by treaty with Britain, to prohibit the export of slaves from East Africa and to close all public slave markets in his dominions.

In 1886 Britain, France and Germany recognized the sovereignty of the Sultan over the islands and a ten-mile wide strip of about 600 miles length along the mainland coast. In 1887 part of this strip was leased to the British East African Association and administration eventually passed to the Government of Kenya.

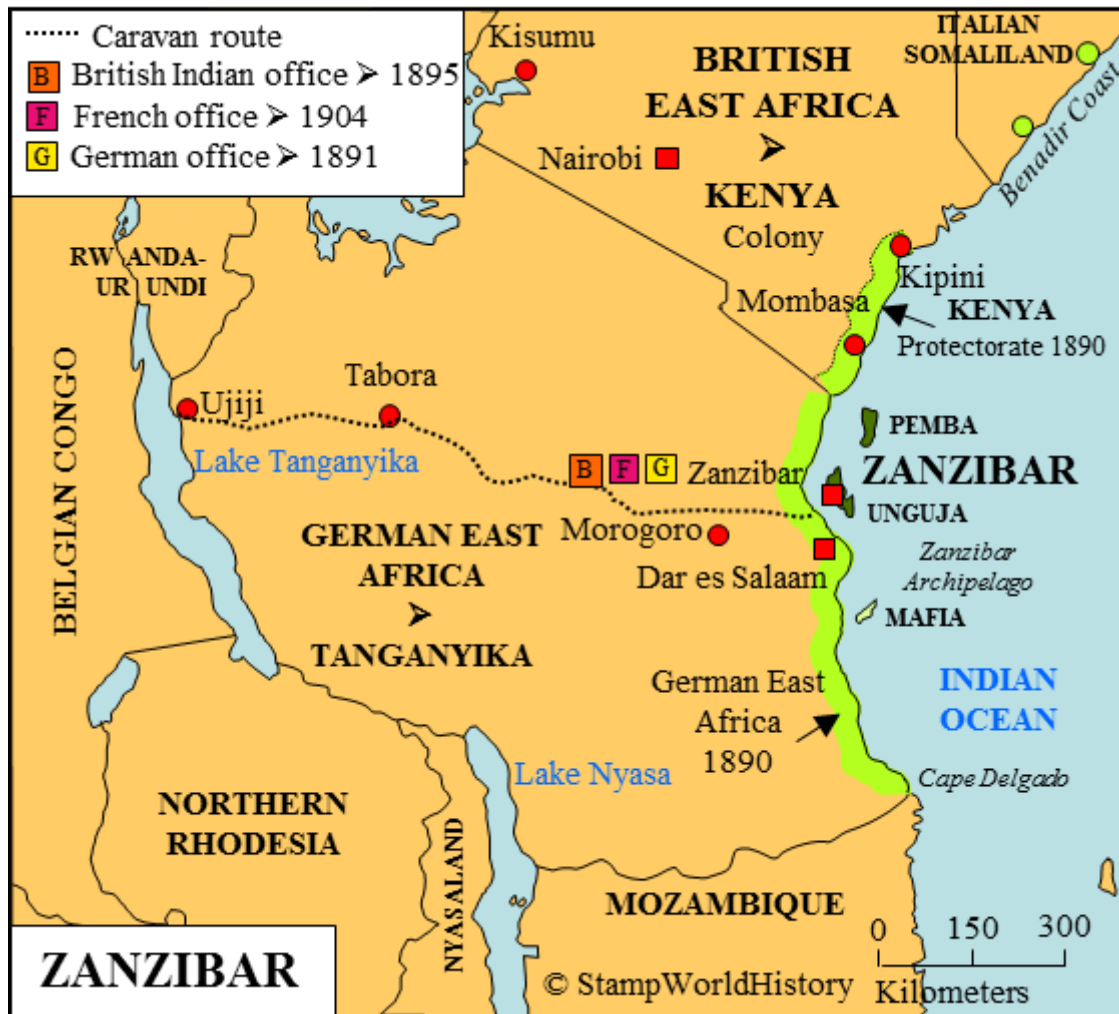
Zanzibar and Pemba were placed under British protection by the Sultan in 1890 and a Constitutional Government was established in the following year.



http://www.die-briefmarke.com/uploads/pics/British_Residency_of_Zanzibar.jpg

1868-95 Stamps of India cancelled in Zanzibar

The first post office, opened in November 1868 and was under Indian administration. Closed during the following year, it was reopened on 1 October 1875 as a foreign post office having special relations with the Indian Post Office. The use of Indian stamps was obligatory. They can only be detected by their cancellations. Subsequently mail was forwarded via Seychelles or later via Aden or Bombay. The office continued to function until 10 November 1895, the date of transfer from Indian to British East African administration". .



<http://www.stampworldhistory.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/Zanzibar.png>



Zanzibar, British-Indian Post Office (1868/69 and 1876-1895)



<http://i.ebayimg.com/images/g/S7wAAOSw3ydV2c9T/s-l1600.jpg>: "Zanzibar: 1867-72 2 annas India Official stamp with SG Z2 cancellation M030"



https://www.stanleygibbons.com/media/catalog/product/cache/1/image/1800x/040ec09b1e35df139433887a97daa66f/z/a/zanzibar-1865-sgz11var-cancel_0.jpg: "ZANZIBAR 1865 SGZ11,var Cancel. 1865 India 1a deep brown, two examples, respectively with very fine part and large part strikes of type Z2 'BRITISH P.O. ZANZIBAR' cds, the former the scarce early state with 'H' complete. An interesting pair."



https://www.stanleygibbons.com/media/catalog/product/cache/1/image/1800x/040ec09b1e35df139433887a97daa66f/z/a/zanzibar-1865-sgz26var-cancel_0.jpg: "ZANZIBAR 1865 SGZ26,var Cancel. 1865 India 2a, two examples in contrasting orange and brown-orange shades, respectively with very fine and large part strikes of type Z3 cds. The second with tiny faults but an attractive pair with very fresh colours".



https://www.stanleygibbons.com/media/catalog/product/cache/1/image/1800x/040ec09b1e35df139433887a97daa66f/z/a/zanzibar-1866-sgz26a-cancel_0.jpg: "ZANZIBAR 1866 SGZ26a Cancel. 1866-78 India 4a green (die I), with very fine part strike of type Z3 '(ZA)NZIBAR' cds. Short corner perf but above average".



http://www.kelleherauctions.com/lotphotos_SAN/626/104783.jpg: "Zanzibar, India Used in Zanzibar, 1874-78, Officials, 2a orange and 4a blue green (SG Z20, Z41a)".



https://www.stanleygibbons.com/media/catalog/product/cache/1/image/1800x/040ec09b1e35df139433887a97daa66f/z/a/zanzibar-1865-sgz40-47-cancel_0.jpg: "1865 India 2a brown-orange, with 1882-85 1a brown-purple, hinged together and used with two strikes (one very fine) of type Z4 squared circle (four bars at corners) dated 'OC 4 85'. Attractive mixed issue usage.".



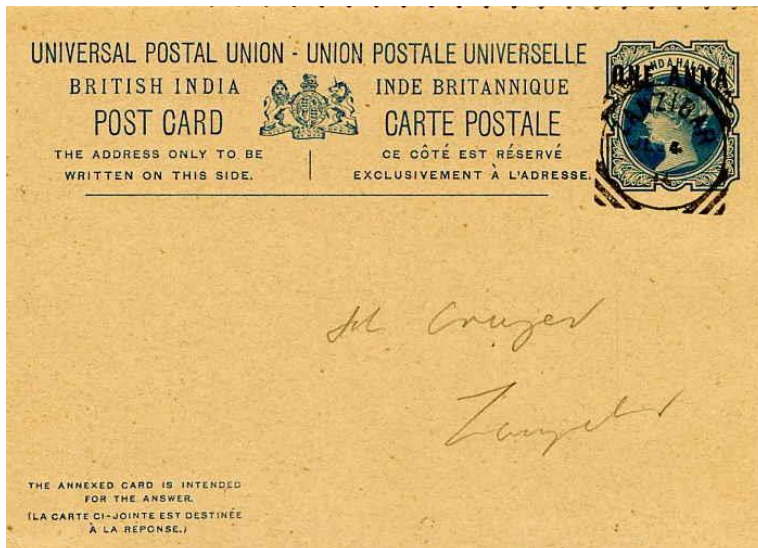
<http://img.collectorcircuit.com/files/david-feldman-s.a./stampauction/autumn-auction/1259992572961414586091.jpg> : "zanzibar zanzibar - the indian post office (1875-1895) –".



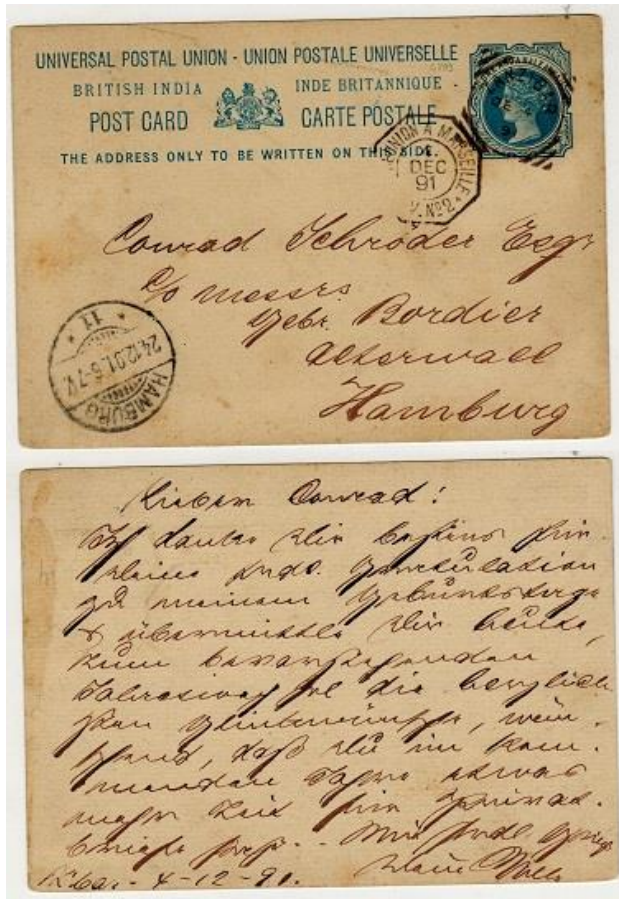
<http://img.collectorcircuit.com/files/david-feldman-s.a./stampauction/autumn-auction/1306722571941414586113.jpg>



<http://img.collectorcircuit.com/files/david-feldman-s.a./stampauction/autumn-auction/130653ex12571761414586075.jpg>



http://www.postalhistory.com/scans_Z/ZZ110704.jpg



<http://www.stevedrewett.com/images/10314.jpg>: "ZANZIBAR - 1891 1 1/2a blue 'Indian' PSC to Germany used at ZANZIBAR via French ship. 1891 (DE.4.) use of Indian (unoverprinted) 1 1/2a blue on cream postal stationery postcard addressed to Germany (genuine use with long message) cancelled by ZANZIBAR squared circle cancel with REUNION A MARSEILLE/L.V.No.2 maritime handstamp applied and with HAMBURG arrival. A scarce use of this Indian stationery in Zanzibar."



http://www.stampcommunity.org/uploaded/puzzler/2010120_india-one.jpg



<https://i.ebayimg.com/thumbs/images/g/mZkAAOSwn-tZIUVm/s-l225.jpg>

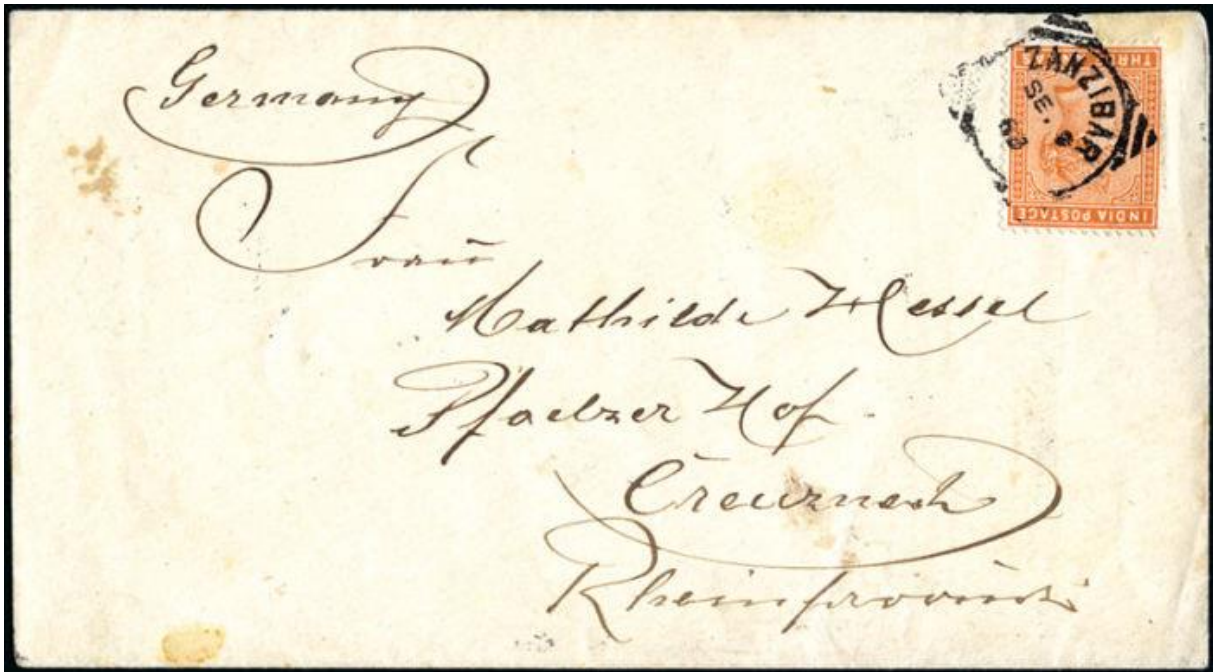


<http://catalogue.klaseboer.com/vol1/html/india/indzan2.jpg>: "Stamps of India used in Zanzibar".



<http://i1231.photobucket.com/albums/ee508/honzastamps/POSTMARKS/INDIA%20POSTMARKS/INDZAN3a.jpg>

<https://i.ebayimg.com/thumbs/images/g/Tn0AAOSwR29ZFcVL/s-l225.jpg>



<http://img.collectorcircuit.com/files/david-feldman-s.a./stampauction/autumn-auction/126029ex12573081414586106.jpg>



<http://i1090.photobucket.com/albums/i363/huanga/Zanzibar.jpg>



<http://i1231.photobucket.com/albums/ee508/honzastamps/POSTMARKS/INDIA%20POSTMARKS/INDZAN4a6p.jpg>



<http://img.collectorcircuit.com/files/david-feldman-s.a./stampauction/autumn-auction/131421ex12573691414586126.jpg>



<http://4.bp.blogspot.com/---MTZPd0P7I/VEFUmV1amQI/AAAAAAAAAYv8/49bq5HldTDI/s1600/iua.jpg>



<http://img.collectorcircuit.com/files/david-feldman-s.a./stampauction/autumn-auction/1306542571771414586074.jpg>



https://www.stanleygibbons.com/media/catalog/product/cache/1/image/1800x/040ec09b1e35df139433887a97daa66f/z/a/zanzibar-1882-90-sgz90-cancel_0.jpg



<http://img.collectorcircuit.com/files/david-feldman-s.a./stampauction/autumn-auction/1306652571881414586112.jpg>



<https://cdn.philasearch.com/A09081/S37/9563.jpg>: "1865-1890: Group of 16 Indian QV stamps used at ZANZIBAR with clear/identifiable Zanzibar datestamps, including good stamps like the scarce 1866 4a. green (Die I), also 1868 8a. rose pair, 1882-90 9p. and 8a., three stamps with minor imperfections as shortend perfs but still a good/fine group".



<http://img.collectorcircuit.com/files/auktionshaus-christoph-g%C3%A4rtner-gmbh-co.kg/stampauction/29th-international-auction/s364946.jpg>: "1893, India 2a. postal stationery

registered envelope from Zanzibar to Pungola, Transvaal via Natal, uprated by 10 different Indian QV definitives up to 12a. Venetian red all tied/cancelled by "ZANZIBAR/REG./JU.16/93" cds, and with 'Aug 8' Durban transit dater and arrival datestamp. The 12a. adhesive with a corner perf fault and envelope opened roughly at top left, but still an attractive and scarce 11-colours franking."



<http://i.ebayimg.com/thumbs/images/g/dAEAAOSw7GRZCC6K/s-l225.jpg>



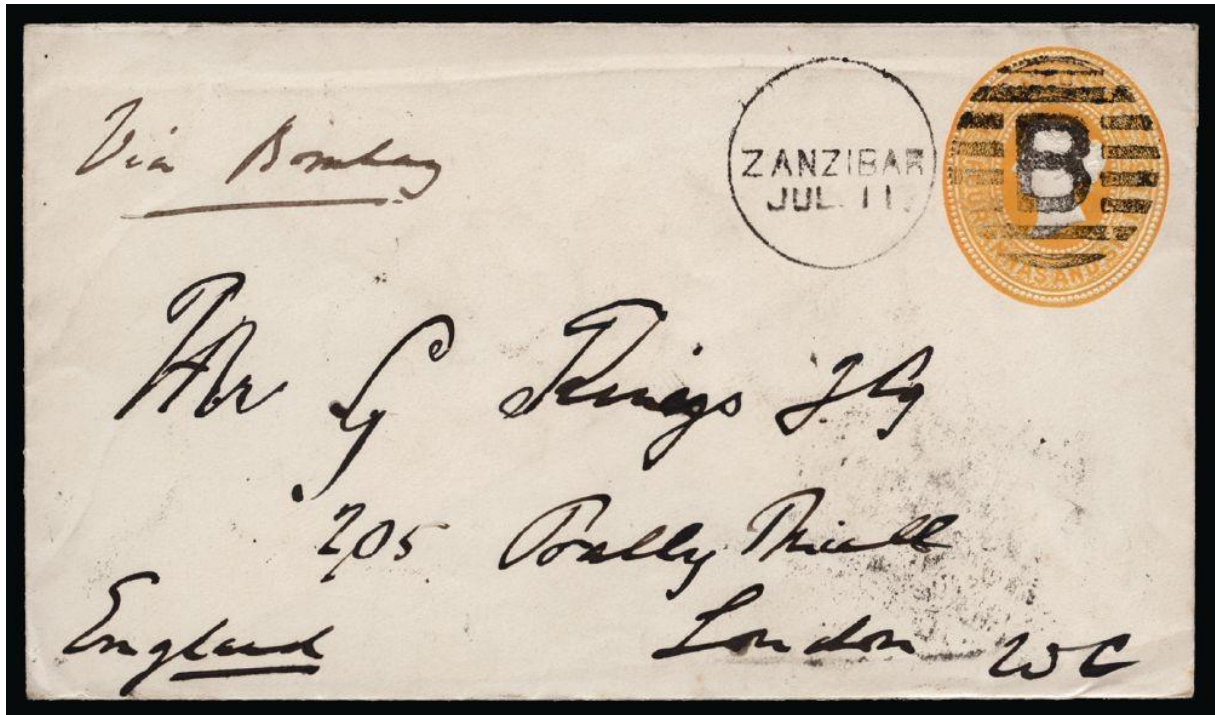
<http://www.chrisrainey.com/images/5080.jpg>



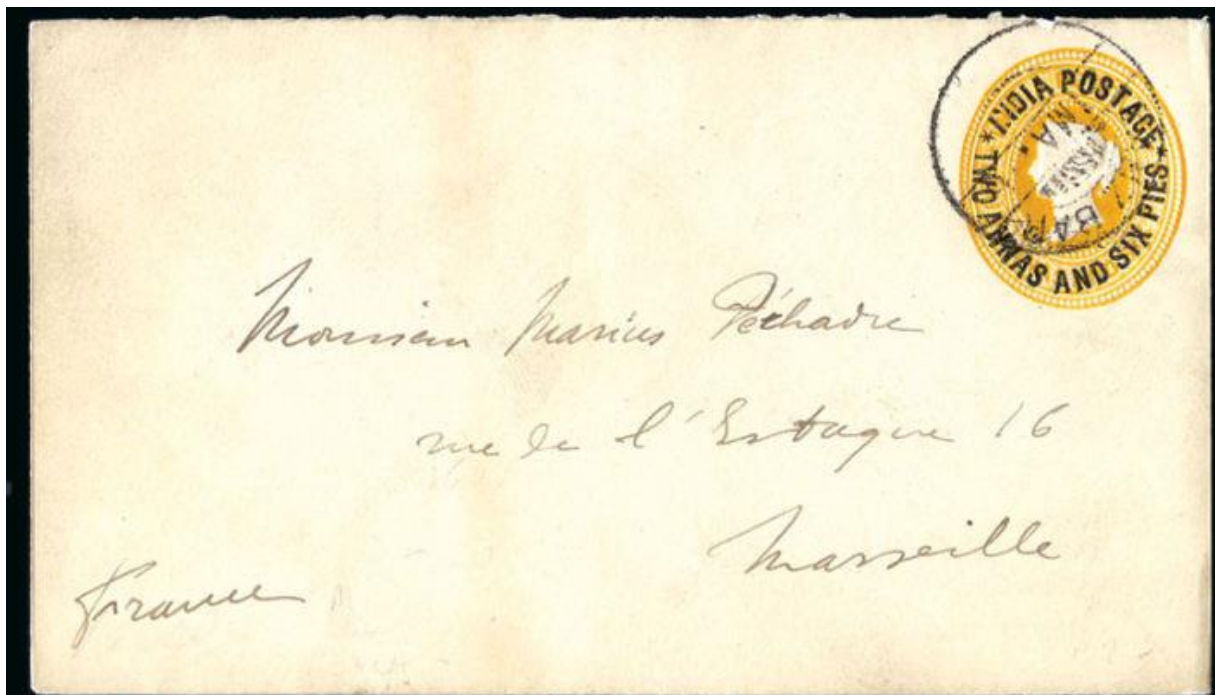
<https://driwancybermuseum.files.wordpress.com/2011/01/zanzibar-used-indi-qv-postally-used-cover.jpg>



<https://i.ebayimg.com/thumbs/images/g/DGcAAOSw1WJZIFI0/s-l225.jpg> : "Zanzibar "On India" quarter anna postal cards, 2 types, mint & used".



https://www.stanleygibbons.com/media/catalog/product/cache/1/image/1800x/040ec09b1e35df139433887a97daa66f/z/a/zanzibar-1884-sgcover-cover_0.jpg: “



<http://img.collectorcircuit.com/files/david-feldman-s.a./stampauction/autumn-auction/131439ex12573871414586143.jpg>

Revenue 1892



<http://thumbs.ebaystatic.com/images/g/LGYAAOSwOgdYrfYw/s-l225.jpg> : “Zanzibar 1892 QV Revenue Overprint on India 1a Lilac Mint Fiscal”.

Also: <http://www.revrevd.com/uploads/3/2/2/0/3220955/8220133.jpg?123> : “1892-94. Stamps of India overprinted ZANZIBAR (19½ x 2½ mm) by De La Rue. Perf 14. a) On Receipt Stamp (25 x 30 mm, wmk large crown). R1. 1a purple (May 1892)”.

<http://thumbs.ebaystatic.com/images/g/IVAAAOSwtfhYoF8X/s-l225.jpg>

Revenue 1892-1894



https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/f/fd/Indian_revenue_stamp_overprinted_for_use_in_Zanzibar.jpg/440px-Indian_revenue_stamp_overprinted_for_use_in_Zanzibar.jpg

<http://www.revrevd.com/uploads/3/2/2/0/3220955/2544564.jpg?285> : “The stamp illustrated above was sold on eBay in June 2012. It is a Special Adhesive stamp of India overprinted Zanzibar in mixed case, similar to the postage stamp provisionals of 1895-96. I can find no prior record of this overprint being found on revenue stamps, but in my view it looks genuine and could be the earliest revenue stamp of Zanzibar.”.



<http://www.revrevd.com/uploads/3/2/2/0/3220955/5628970.jpg?638>: “b) On Special Adhesive stamps (57½ x 21 mm, wmk large crown and 'INDIA' sideways). R2. 4a green (July 1893); R3. 8a blue (July 1893); R4. 12a carmine (July 1893); R5. 1r brick-red (May 1892), a. lake; R6. 2r lilac (May 1892); R7. 3r orange-brown (July 1893); R8. 4r chocolate (July 1893); R9. 5r reddish purple (May 1892); a. violet; R10. 10r carmine (May 1892); R11. 20r bistre (August 1894); R12. 30r orange (August 1894); R13. 40r pale blue (August 1894); R14. 50r grey (May 1892); Notes: 1. All values are known with CANCELLED overprint, emanating from the De La Rue archives. 2. The dates in brackets in the above listing are taken from a De La Rue archive sheet bearing a complete set (opt CANCELLED), with a date written above each value in manuscript. It is not known whether the dates indicate when the stamps were printed or when they were dispatched from London, but in either case they were very probably issued in Zanzibar no more than a couple of months later. 3. Examples of the one-anna receipt stamp are known with a forged ZANZIBAR overprint on the common Indian stamp, produced presumably in an attempt to defraud philatelists. The letters of the forged overprint are too narrow and the top of the Z is raised above the line, as shown in the illustration above.”.

Zanzibar, German Post Office (1890, until 31 July 1891)



[http://i.ebayimg.com/00/s/NTk4WDY2Mg==/z/9zQAAOSwT6pVsg5b/\\$ 12.JPG](http://i.ebayimg.com/00/s/NTk4WDY2Mg==/z/9zQAAOSwT6pVsg5b/$ 12.JPG)



http://www.matthewbennettauctions.com/lotphotos_large/300/172014.jpg

LANZIBAR
KAISERL. DEUTSCHE
POSTAMT
5/1

5/1

5/1

Herrn Müller in La Fucina

Lanzibar

26



http://www.matthewbennettauctions.com/lotphotos_large/300/172013.jpg



<http://catalogue.klaseboer.com/vol1/html/germa/zanzi1.jpg>



http://www.briefmarken-bl.ch/images/d_zanzibar.jpg : "Deutsche Marken wurden zwischen dem 27. August 1890 und dem 31. Juli 1891 in der deutschen Postagentur verwendet".



http://philaseiten.wavecdn.net/up/39775068/5/1/58a0d5ce_h.jpeg



<http://www.lugdunum-philatelie.com/photosVO/614.jpg>



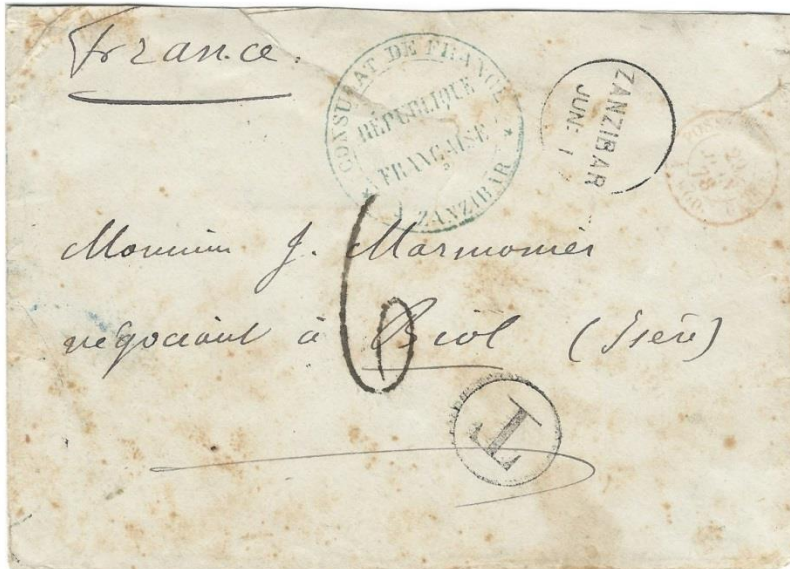
http://www.matthewbennettauctions.com/lotphotos_large/300/171993.jpg

Zanzibar: French Post Office



<http://indian-ocean.africa.si.edu/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/map37.jpg> : “The French Post Office in Malindi, Zanzibar Stone Town”.

Pre-1894



<http://www.compustamp.com/media/catalog/product/cache/1/image/9df78eab33525d08d6e5fb8d27136e95/0/-/0-02035.jpg>



<http://img.collectorcircuit.com/files/david-feldman-s.a./stampauction/autumn-auction/1310672572181414586152.jpg>



<http://d1stvyu4yyf2jr.cloudfront.net/modules/auctions/14/pics/big/606d13c08b387adf85f1b07571dc599388b3ecb2.jpg>



<http://img.collectorcircuit.com/files/david-feldman-s.a./stampauction/autumn-auction/131081ex12572271414586161.jpg>

August 18, 1890

Addressed to Dortmund, Germany this double weight cover bears seals (2) of the German Consulate in Zanzibar. The German post office in Zanzibar was to open nine (9) days later on August 27.

The Zanzibar and Paris postmark dates do not match the French mailboat sailings, thus the French post office must have had a special dispatch.

Zanzibar	18 August 1890	
Paris	8 September 1890	(in red)
Paris Etrange	9 September 1890	(in blue)
Dortmund	9 September 1890	



[http://i.ebayimg.com/00/s/MTYwMFgxNTcz/z/AmsAAOSw-K9ZlgFs/\\$_57.JPG](http://i.ebayimg.com/00/s/MTYwMFgxNTcz/z/AmsAAOSw-K9ZlgFs/$_57.JPG)



<https://i.ebayimg.com/thumbs/images/g/--MAAOSwBLIVc0IH/s-l225.jpg>